guidelines. It is very unfortunate to know that none of the SEBI officials attended the meeting of the Kolkata Stock Exchange when they were appointed as Directors on the Board of the Kolkata Stock Exchange, when irregularities like this were noticed. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister what action has been taken against those erring officers who were involved, in a way, in sidelining the problems being faced by the Kolkata Stock Exchange and other stock exchanges in the country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, there are two broad things, what action has been taken against the officials for the negligence in the performance of their responsibility and the tangential reference to *dabba* trading. As the hon. Member knows, the Ministry of Finance has acted very aggressively against this rather curious trading, *dabba* trading. हमने डब्बे बंद करा दिए हैं। अब डब्बे गायब हैं। कोलकाता में और मुंबई में अब डब्बे नहीं हैं।

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mere suspension from the Board is not enough. You may suspend them ten times. It had been done in the past. It will again come up. They will find some other novel methods. The right thing would be to take very strict actions against those erring officers who neglect the problems like this.

श्री जसवंत सिंहः माननीय सदस्य के जो सुझाव हैं उन पर वित्त मंत्रालय पूरा विचार करेगा।

Recommendation of working group

*203. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations made by working group on Petroleum and Natural Gas submitted last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly the recommendations made for incorporation in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Working Group constituted by the Government studied various aspects of the petroleum and natural gas sector in the context of liberalisation of the sector as well as its increasing exposure to international oil market. It made a number of recommendations which include strengthening of oil security through accelerated exploration programmes, acquisition of equity oil abroad, development of alternative sources of fuels, creation of strategic reserves of oil/product and product quality improvement for environmental protection. Accordingly, the following action plans have been approved by the Government under the Tenth Five Year Plan:

(i) Acceleration of exploration efforts especially in deep offshore and frontier areas.

(ii) Launching of Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) & Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) programmes.

(iii) Enhancing efforts for securing equity oil and gas abroad.

(iv) Creation of strategic storage facilities for crude oil.

(v) Development of alternate fuels including Coal Bed Methane, Motor Spirit-Ethanol Blend and Gas Hydrates. In addition, the government is also implementing Bio-Diesel programmes.

(vi) Implementation of Product Quality Improvement Projects by Oil PSUs for meeting prescribed environmental standards.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Is it a fact that because of the excess capacity, the Indian Oil Company has increased exports? If that is so, it will hamper the economy. What steps has the Government taken in this regard?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, we have indicated what action we have taken. So far as refineries are concerned, presently, we are self-sufficient in refining. Whatever refining is required to be done, we are doing. In that refining, if there is some surplus of either petrol or diesel, it is exported to that extent only. The country needs that much refining. That is why, taking into account the future needs, we are having three more refineries.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Keeping in view the recommendations made in this regard in the last four years, is there any progress in this direction? The Minister has stated that the Government is doing future planning. I would like to know as to how far the recommendations have been implemented.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, these are the recommendations which were made for finalising the Tenth Five Year Plan. All those recommendations have been accepted. So far as the Ninth Five Year Plan is concerned, it was to the extent of Rs. 78,400 crores and in the case of the Tenth Five Year plan, it is to the extent of Rs. 1,03,656 crores. There is 32 per cent increase. All the projects which have been indicated in the Tenth Five year Plan are being implemented as per schedule.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what type of acceleration of exploration efforts has been going on in the frontier areas of the North-East at present. Do you expect that it would bring self-sufficiency in the supply of crude oil to the North-East refineries in the near future?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, so far as the North-East is concerned, we have been offering exploration blocks and the activities are going on there. But due to certain conditions prevailing there, the pace of work is some what slow. But in the country as a whole, we have given 91 blocks in the last four years as compared to 22 blocks in 10 years. We are trying to increase the production. To become self-sufficient, is a goal which will not be easy to achieve.

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: The hon. Minister in his reply has mentioned about three more oil refineries. One of which belongs to Orissa, that is, the Paradeep Oil Refinery. The State Government has agreed to give 100 per cent concession on sales tax. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government intend to complete this Paradeep Oil Refinery within the Tenth Plan.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, whatever sales tax concession the State Government had agreed to give earlier, they had withdrawn that. Finally, they have agreed to give this concession. We will try to expedite its completion. It is a refinery of the Indian Oil Company. It is quite possible that because of the lapse of two years, there can be some delay.